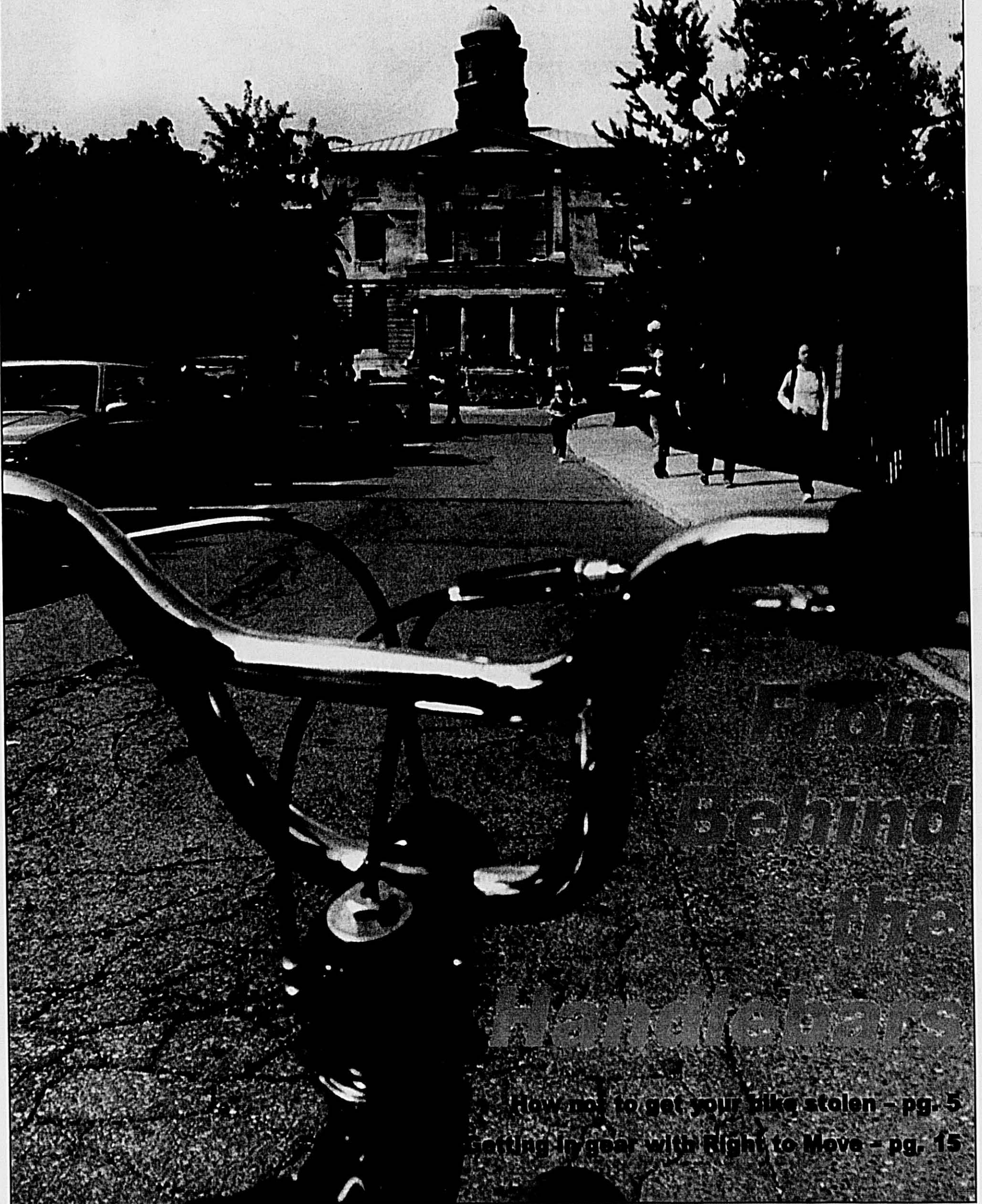


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# THE MCGILL DAILY

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# Help Is Out of Service

*Sexual assault crises line goes unanswered after summer eviction*

BY CHRISTOPHER NEEDLES  
News Reporter

The Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Helpline has been evicted from its offices, leaving the phone ringing with serious calls, and no one available to answer it.

This has frustrated the staff of The Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society, the volunteer group that runs the helpline, and has them trying to find a new space for the service. The helpline was evicted from the faculty of arts during the summer.

Sarah Curry, a representative of SACOMSS, calls the situation disastrous.

"It is terrible to know that there are callers who we cannot help, who are still out there trying to call," she said. Currently the helpline is receiving a number of calls each night, all of which are being forwarded to an answering machine.

The eviction points to a larger space issue that has been surfacing on campus over the past few years. Brian Karasick, Physical Planner at the University Planning Office, notes that he was able to accommodate the group's special needs in the past only because of their important cause. Now that space is no longer a

luxury, it has become more and more difficult.

"Our space situation is very tight," he says, adding, "they're really not our first priority."

Academic space, says Karasick, is the first priority for the University. "We have no more need to provide [SACOMSS] with space than any other student group."

deeply sorry for the eviction: "We had no extra space... if we had extra space we would have offered it to them."

Curry says the situation has also taken its toll on the SACOMSS volunteers: "It is a continuing struggle for us to get space to offer our services. But it is also frustrating for our volunteers who want to help, but can't."

uate if we can even offer [the helpline]."

Karasick promises to look for space for the group: "If I can find them an office, I will," he says, "but there's very little around." He added that the group's need for strict confidentiality and 24-hour access makes them particularly difficult to accommodate.

When in operation, the Crisis Intervention Helpline offers confidential support that provides listening, information, and referral services between 6pm and 12am every night. The helpline can be reached at 398-8500. SACOMSS day-time services have been unaffected by the eviction.

“It is terrible to know that there are callers who we cannot help, who are still out there.”

The Faculty of Arts, who were responsible for evicting the helpline, agreed with Karasick's position, saying their hands were also tied. Susan Sharpe, the Assistant to the Dean of Arts, makes clear that the faculty was equally effected by larger moves on McGill's part.

"We moved about ten different people and projects over the summer because the University moved people from administration into our building," she said.

She claimed it was not her faculty's problem to support the group, but was

The organization requires a large amount of security in order to protect confidentiality, adding to the frustration.

There is a serious worry about the discontinuity interruption of the helpline. Those in serious need who are calling the service, might be discouraged when their calls are left unanswered, preventing them from calling in the future. With so little support from the school, Curry is uncertain about the practicality of the helpline in the future:

"Being moved definitely hurts our service... we are soon going to have to re-eval-

## University of Ottawa Students Seize Administration Building to Protest Fees

BY ADAM GRACHNIK AND MARK GREENAN  
The Fulcrum, Ottawa

About 20 students wound up a three-day occupation of a University of Ottawa administration building yesterday. They vowed, however, to continue to protest recent fee hikes.

Dozens of students had stormed the building's second floor on Monday, yelling and waving placards protesting administrative fees.

"We're not going to back down. We're going to stop taking shit and start taking action," said Eric Clarke on Monday.

The students were protesting a new requirement that all tuition and fees for the year be paid in September and that students who don't pay up on time dole out an extra \$40. Tuition also increased 3.5 per cent in May, the eighth straight annual increase at the university.

Five minutes after the protest began on Monday, campus security officers locked students into the administration office. By that afternoon, security began issuing stamps that allowed as many as 80 protesters in-and-out privileges, although no new protesters were allowed in.

In a move that was deemed a small first victory for the protesters, the administration agreed Monday to a meeting with the sit-in's organizers. The sides failed to reach an agreement, how-

ever, and protest organizers returned to the building.

In the early evening, University of Ottawa secretary Pierre-Yves Boucher asked the students to leave the building.

"If you want to make a statement, that's fine by me," Boucher told the crowd, "but you are not going to be making a statement between 11 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., since we're all going to be asleep anyhow."

Administrators eventually let four students sleep inside the building, while the

including financial aid applications along with statements during the second installment of tuition fees, so that all students will be aware of a special \$40 bursary for students in financial need.

"They admit that they made a mistake but then they download the responsibility to fix it on students through the \$40 bursary," he said. "That is still unacceptable," said Student Association Vice-President Darryl Whitehead, responding to the offer.

The administration also agreed to the

“We're not going to back down. We're going to stop taking shit and start taking action.”

rest of the protesters lit candles and set-up camp on the building's steps.

About 17 students returned Tuesday. That morning, the university's administrative committee issued a five-page response to the students' concerns.

Although they refused to repeal the controversial new fees, they did acknowledge that the July decision to announce the new system was late and that it posed a problem for many students.

The university also committed to

student's final demand - to establish a task force between student representatives and the administration to review and report on tuition, ancillary and administrative fees and the cost of other services such as photocopying.

The protesters stayed in the building Tuesday, but were gone by noon yesterday. Upon leaving, however, Whitehead said that he'll be right back on the administration building's steps if he feels like the task force isn't working for students.

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# Thieves Prey on Students' Bikes

BY JON BRICKER  
The McGill Daily

Doesn't that bike with someone else on it look an awful lot like yours? Chances are, it is.

Many McGill students know too well the horror of returning to the bike rack where they last locked up their ten-speed and wondering just where it went. And according to campus authorities, the problem is rampant.

"Bike thieves are preying on McGill students," said Security Services Supervisor Bob Blahuta.

Although McGill Security has received only about 26 bike theft reports in the last two years, he said, "I don't believe the records reflect the problem at all."

Blahuta said that while bike theft is among the most common crimes on campus, it often goes unreported and that little is being done to deal with the problem.

"There's no program on the table yet," he admitted.

Blahuta also told the tale of a gigantic theft ring that was broken up last year. In the scheme that's believed to have cost many McGill students their bikes, local teens were stealing cycles and selling them to a Montreal man who, in turn, sold them en masse in Quebec City, where he recruited more pilferers to seize bikes to be sold back in Montreal.

While Blahuta said McGill Security officers caught one thief in the act last year and that about a half dozen more have been arrested on campus by police in the last twelve months, others felt more needed to be done.

"Bike theft definitely seems to be one of the bigger problems on campus," said SSMU Safety Commissioner Vince Escanlar.

He explained that universities are often first stops for bike pirates looking for an

easy target. "Thieves will go where the pickings are," Escanlar said.

Blahuta agreed, pointing out that with so many students riding to school, campuses often have a huge concentration of bikes available for the taking. He added that the problem may be even more dramatic at McGill.

"Thieves may think that McGill is a school with more money and more expensive bikes," Blahuta said.

Qasim Virjee, a U2 Religious Studies student says he considers the problem a big one. He's had two bikes stolen in just the last year. The first, he said, was worth about \$800.

"I had just bought what was supposed to be a good lock. I guess it's sort of accepted in this city now, that eventually, you're bike's going to get stolen," he said.

He added, "I think there really need to be foot patrols on campus to stop this sort of thing."

Escanlar spoke highly of a program that's become popular at UQAM, another downtown campus that's had problems with theft. These days, students who want to park their bike on that campus can pay a minimal fee to lock-up their bike at a stand supervised by a fellow student.

"It's definitely a workable idea," Escanlar said.

He also said, however, that McGill Security is not equipped to deal with the issue. "Security's budget has been cut several times in the past couple of years. They don't have the kind of resources they need to deal with the bike problem."

Blahuta pointed to a number of other problems with bike management on an off campus.

"We have to rethink the whole bike parking strategy," he said.

He explained that emphasis needed to be placed on putting more racks in more visible places where thieves cannot easily break a lock without getting attention. He also said that surveillance cameras could be better used and that more students need to report thefts so that police and campus security can better recognize the extent of the problem.

Montreal Urban Community police Constable Robert Bolduc said that downtown cyclists need to be especially diligent these days, as top-of-the-line bikes are getting more expensive and thieves are getting more and more adept at breaking locks.

"Every time a new lock comes on the market, it's only a matter of time before thieves figure out how to break through it," he said.

He added that diligence on riders' parts was particularly important because most victims of theft never recover their bikes.

"People tell me all the time, 'my bike's easy to find. It's red,'" said Bolduc. "I tell them to forget it."

Marc Heckmann, who works at Right to Move, a Concordia-based cycling advocacy group, said the emphasis needs to be on educating cyclists.

"In a lot of cases, riders just don't know how to lock their bikes," Heckmann said. He says that many cyclists tend to lock their bikes to poles or stands that can be cut through or removed easily. He also says that cyclists need to be sure to lock removable parts like wheels and seats.

"Your best bet is to ask a friendly bike shop how to lock up bike," he said. "That could be what decides whether your bike gets stolen too."

For more on cycling in Montreal, please see pg. 15.



Daily File Photo

## GEAR UP TO PREVENT BIKE THEFT

Some tips on keeping your bike safe:

- Invest in a good lock. U-locks and newly developed super-cables are best. Don't invest in an unbreakable padlock, unless your also going to use an equally strong chain. No matter what a salesperson tells you, though, there's not one that can't be hacked, drilled, or snapped off. Some locks come with insurance, but be sure to check out the rules on how you can collect.

- Protect your parts. Make sure you also lock-up your seat and wheels. The quick release variety are especially ripe for the picking.

- Pick a visible spot. Pedestrians have a remarkable way of turning a blind eye and being, well, pedestrian. Still, human traffic is a likely deterrent for would-be thieves.

- Don't lock your bike to anything that can be cut through or easily pulled from the ground.

- Keep your serial number. Your best shot at recovering a stolen bike is if you can tell the police this info.

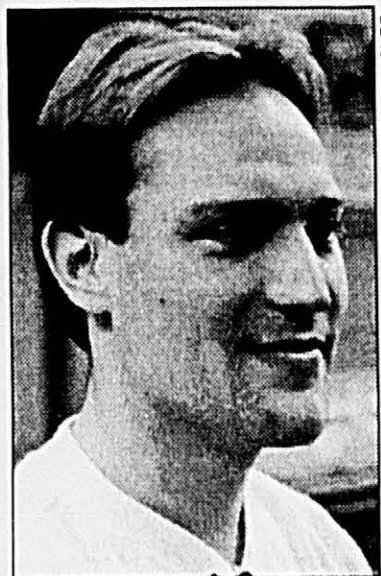
- Buy cheap. Montreal has a number of places to find inexpensive bikes. Thieves don't usually want them, and if they do, your feelings won't be too hurt.

# NDP McGill Active Again

*New club prepares for busy year, federal election*

BY EMILIE MOORHOUSE  
News Reporter

After a year of virtual invisibility, NDP McGill is up and running again. The new president of the club, Raoul Gebert, was elected last Wednesday at the



Raoul Gebert, NDP McGill President

year's first meeting.

Gebert says he's optimistic about the group's future and that NDP McGill is already as big other parties' campus wings that have been around a long time.

"We have 60 members right now, with a core of 20 active people," he said. "This makes us comparable to Liberal McGill who have 70 signups and 30 as an active core."

The NDP McGill has a busy year ahead dealing with federal elections expected as early as November and a student government at McGill that Gebert sees as increasingly conservative.

At Wednesday's meeting, members of the upstart club expressed displeasure with the way SSMU is being run. According to one club member, SSMU executives are more concerned with "making their CVs look good," than promoting students' interests.

Mentioned as an example was the attempt by Kevin McPhee, VP Finance and Operations, to put in place the Coke

Beverage Agreement last year despite widespread opposition. The CBA was eventually defeated by a 56 per cent majority in a student referendum. McPhee was also supposed to establish a childcare facility, but has failed to do so for two years now and instead is spending nearly \$700,000 on renovations in the Shatner building.

This contrasts sharply with the performance of the student government at Concordia, which NDP McGill views as considerably more socially progressive than SSMU.

NDP McGill's mandate includes ensuring that more left-wing candidates appear on SSMU election ballots next year, a change which Gebert thinks would better represent the diverse student body.

"What I envision in the long term is [the formation of] an alliance, a coalition to take back the student government and to build up an alternative to the elitist and self-perpetuating student government that we have right now," he said.

The alliance, he hopes, will bring together activist groups such as QPIRG,

Free Trade Alert and Queer McGill.

Not only does NDP McGill plan to be active in student government affairs but, as it has in the past, it will also put forth students to run as candidates in Quebec ridings in the upcoming federal election.

The NDP has traditionally had a difficult time gathering support in Quebec where votes are usually divided along separatist lines between the Parti Quebecois and the Liberals. Combined with a lack of resources, this has resulted in the NDP having difficulty in finding a candidate for all ridings in the province.

Libby Davies, the federal NDP Youth and Education critic, is excited by the prospect of having the party represented at McGill.

"I'm delighted to hear that there's a youth wing starting at McGill," she said. "It has always been an important part of the party. In some political parties, working in a youth group is seen as a right of passage to power. With the New Democrat Youth of Canada, it's much more about activism."

Davies also thinks that the students can play a significant part in boosting the party's fortunes in Quebec.

"We're certainly established in Quebec, but we want to see that increased," she said. "I'm proud of the fact that a number of our candidates will be young people. They will play a very, very important role."

Over the next year, NDP McGill hopes to enhance the party's profile on campus, in Montreal and in the province with fundraising and various other events. The group will be involved next month in a lecture to be given by well-known British Columbia MP Svend Robinson. They are also busy organizing a wine and cheese with Ed Broadbent, the former party leader who is now teaching a course at McGill.

Gebert encourages any students interested in politics and the NDP to join the club, help out with the federal election campaign and engage in debates with other political party clubs on campus, such as Liberal McGill and PC McGill.



# Students Air Grievances at SSMU Open Meeting

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS  
The McGill Daily

Students were given an opportunity to discuss issues of interest with their student representatives yesterday afternoon, as SSMU held its first open meeting of the year.



Matt McLaughlin expresses concern over lack of transparency at SSMU

The meeting started with each Students' Society executive member introducing themselves, and discussing the issues relevant to their portfolio.

After that, the 20 students who showed up to the event were able to voice their concerns and comments about SSMU and McGill.

A number of students raised concerns with the way politics is conducted at the Students' Society. Several students spoke out against the secretive ways that decisions often get made on behalf of students.

"I'm alarmed by all the SSMU discussions that are taking place in camera," said Matthew McLaughlin, U2 Linguistics student. "The CBA deal last year was negotiated in camera and students weren't allowed to see the content; students reacted swiftly and decisively to that [by voting no]. And then the discussion about The Daily's lease was completely in camera and during the summer when The Daily executive and the students at large weren't around to follow the process."

Erica Weinstein, a U2 student and

SSMU councillor, agreed. She described how last council meeting went into a confidential session to discuss its lawsuit with The McGill Daily, despite the fact that all students have a right to know how and why their money was being spent on the case.

ment. "I can't really argue logically against you," he told the students. "But I think that there's a fair need for confidentiality. And that's all I can say to explain it."

Akin Alaga, a U3 student who also sits on SSMU council, did not seem entirely satisfied with Baraniak's explanation. He

part of the problem" but explained that bad relations with certain organizations were par for the course.

"We [SSMU] have good relations with some groups some years, and other years we don't," Baraniak said.

Students raised a number of other concerns, including the lack of bike locks on campus, the problem of overcrowded classrooms, and the shortage of microwaves in the SSMU cafeteria.

"I think we should have a lot more meetings like this one," said Blake McGreevy, a U2 Arts student, adding that students need to be consulted more often by the SSMU. "But with all due respect, I don't think that this was promoted very well."

Posters for the event were few, most of which were put up only a number of hours before the meeting was to start. SSMU vice president Mark Chodos, who organized the meeting, apologized for the poor turnout.

"My communication skills have a long way to go," said Chodos.

"I think that there's a fair need for confidentiality. And that's all I can say to explain it."

"There's clearly something wrong with the process," she said. "Confidential council meetings, where information is being kept from students, are entirely inappropriate. Everything that was said which isn't a matter of public record should not have been said."

SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak quickly responded to the students' concerns about the lack of transparency in his gov-

said that it was irresponsible that the SSMU and The Daily were fighting each other in court, both using students' money, and that there should be more open communication about the matter.

"I think that there's something wrong with the student leaders if they can't solve a dispute without wasting so much student money on lawyers," said Alaga.

Baraniak admitted that "SSMU is a big

loaded from the Internet was found in one of the Simon Fraser Student Society's Print Shop printers.

A subsequent search by a computing services department linked the image to computers shared by Arnason and Karabotsos and turned up a total of 124 pornographic files on student association computers.

Arnason admitted at the time to "viewing some homepages on the Internet — which some may find objectionable, such as the Playboy page and other such pages featuring nude and scantily women."

He denied allegations that the pair downloaded illegal images of rape scenes, kiddie porn and bestiality, "as we have no interest in viewing such activities."

In November 1996, more than six

months after the story was first reported in the Peak and subsequently covered in other media, UTV (now Global Television) reported that Arnason and Karabotsos had downloaded scenes of rape, "kiddie porn" and bestiality onto student association computers, tarnishing the university's reputation.

Karabotsos sued the television station within days of the report, and Arnason soon followed with his own lawsuit.

—Simon Grant, The SFU Peak, Burnaby

## MORE WOMEN EARNING UNIVERSITY DEGREES ACCORDING TO STUDY

More women than ever hold university degrees, according to a Statistics Canada study released last week.

The number of women with university degrees has doubled since 1981 and quadrupled since 1971, according to the report.

Most women, however, aren't surprised by the statistics.

"I think it's a reflection of the fact that a lot of barriers have been removed in the past 30 years. If women have the opportunity to go to school they will," said third-year York University student Christy Lewis.

On average, women outnumber men in undergraduate programs, making up 56 per cent of the student body. The numbers drop in graduate schools to 51 per cent at the master's level and 43 per cent at the doctoral level.

—Samila Nandy and Wajima Soroor, The Excalibur, Toronto

## news-briefs



### GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY PASSES \$60,000 SAVING ONTO STUDENTS

The Post-Graduate Students' Society had the price tag on its group health coverage reduced by about \$60,000 over the summer and all 4000 students on the PGSS health plan will see a part of the discount.

Grad students had voted last year to accept a \$295 health care package with the Quebec Student Health Alliance, but when ASEQ changed insurance providers from Liberty Health to Sun Life, the premium dropped to \$280. The \$15 difference will be automatically deducted from the fee balance of every PGSS member using ASEQ.

"We felt that the membership should have the money, that it wasn't ours to keep and that we needed to be sure that we could get it to everybody entitled," said Aaron Windsor, Executive Chairperson of the PGSS.

Windsor explained that the Students' Society considered different options before deciding on the automatic discount as the best course of action.

"Whenever you do a strict refund, or if you put some contingency on it like you have to come and declare it, there's always going to be people who slip through the cracks and you can't be sure that everyone gets it," he said. "With ever increasing administrative fees and student debt at all time highs, it was important for the PGSS to make an example of accountability and responsibility to our membership."

The opt-out/opt-in period for the PGSS health plan ends October 13. For additional information concerning the PGSS and the Society's fees and health plan, see the PGSS web-site (<http://www.mcgill.ca/pgss/>).

—Scott Iverson

### FORMER SIMON FRASER PRESIDENT SETTLES "PORNOGATE" LAWSUIT

Two former Simon Fraser University student association executives have settled out of court with Global Television in a slander case known on the campus as "pornogate."

Former association president Kristjan Arnason said he is satisfied with the settlement, which will award him a cash payout and full reimbursement of his court fees, though the amount is being kept confidential.

The scandal began in March 1996 and centred around then-president-elect Arnason and treasurer-elect Frank Karabotsos. A pornographic image down-

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possibly libellous or illegal content.

# Slibel Lander

an agenda of disrespect

## Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

Slibel hears that The Daily's crack photography department has some competition from the **big boys upstairs**. Kevin W. McPhee came by early yesterday morning with a snazzy digital camera to take pictures of the esteemed paper's offices. We can only imagine that this will be for his scrapbook of favourite blunders, to be filed between "daycare, lack of" and "human rights, blah blah blah." For those who weren't around last year, McPhee told The Daily last year that people who opposed the Cold Beverage Agreement were going to cloud the debate with such non-issues as "human rights, blah blah blah." Consequently, Kevin W. McPhee spent most of last year in a **coke-addled frenzy**, much like that other famous Dubya south of the border (Slibel note: Slibel realizes that he went a little crazy with the blabs last year and he promises that all is forgotten and McPhee will never be associated with the blabs in this column again) ....Word has it that the Sexual Ethics

class spent a good five minutes discussing the **Fembot** column in Monday's Daily. However, no mention was made of **Alan Thicke**. Funny, because when Slibel thinks sexual ethics, Slibel thinks Thicke. His role as **Mortimer Seaver** in *Family Ties* kept us snug as bugs in a rug all through the late 1980's, if you know what we mean....Speaking of Sexual Ethics, the popular and illustrious **Professor J. Mark Shields**, the originator of everyone's favourite bird course, is headed to Japan in less than a month ostensibly to study "Buddhism." Yeah, while you're there Mark could you please look into those dirty-school-girl-panties vending machines. With SSMU's rumoured upcoming DSPVMA, Slibel needs all the info he can get his hands on... **Dubya McPhee** may not be cooking the books, but whoa Nellie can he cook them! hot dogs! SSMU's open meeting yesterday featured a small barbeque, which, despite Mark "Chodirama" Chodos' declaration that the

free food fest had been cancelled, actually happened. Kudos to **Clara Peron** for offering buns to hungry students. All through our wild days, this mad existence, we wanted those **left-over buns**. Thankfully, she didn't keep her distance... Finally, Albania still doesn't seem to get the message.

It's like cyber-confession, minus the rosary beads. Send Slibel all your deepest, darkest secrets in an email, with the subject **Bless me, Slibel, for I have sinned!** slibel@mcgilldaily.com

## ON TRACK ON CRACK

**On Track:** Triathletes. After **Simon Whitfield** won one of Canada's only two, as of press time, gold medals, the Triathlon finally got some respect in this country. Maybe McGill's Triathletes will now get the funding they deserve. Whitfield and co. are **on track, on bike and in water**.

**On Crack:** Equestrians. We always knew jockeys were short, but until **Eric Lamaze** got the boot from this year's Olympics, we never knew what it was that was **stunting their growth**. Makes you wonder about those sugarcubes they always feed their horses...Also, the **entire continent of Australia**. Alright, you've got kangaroos, koalas and duck-billed platypi. And you used to be a penal colony. Get over yourselves.

# The Olympics Ate My Homework

By S.P. MARTINI •

Over the past ten days, I have come to the conclusion that, much like the girls who lived in my house before me, the Olympics are pure evil.

It all started out so innocently. "Hey look," said my housemate one day, "we've got free cable."

We all had lofty ambitions for ourselves. We weren't TV people. We would read books and watch movies. We would use our cable only for the benefits of weekly installments of *The Simpsons*, *The Family Guy* and of course, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

And then they began. Oh, we scoffed at the entire escapade at first. Who watches the Olympics? We sneered at the schmaltzy opening ceremonies, we turned up our collective lip at the irritating CBC correspondents, one of whom we affectionately nicknamed "Terry Horseface."

But slowly, the games began to evolve. A really adorable Canadian guy won gold in the triathlon and cried when he heard



the anthem. We hated to admit it, but that was sweet.

We were finished when gymnastics came on. With the frighteningly muscular men and the painfully thin, determined girls flying through the air and breaking their legs, the event of gymnastics, much like the entire Olympics, is like watching a car crash. It's disturbing, yet somehow you just can't look away.

Soon, each of us had our own athlete crushes. All our meals were eaten in front of the television. We cried when Derek Porter lost in rowing and cheered with our favourite Canuck tennis player, Daniel "Nessie" Nestor when he won. We

screamed and kicked the wall and gave under-the-leg fingers to the TV when the Americans kicked our asses. We were hooked.

Still, we do not tire of our addiction. When the CBC is playing reruns of *Road to Aronlea*, we watch the Games on TSN and sometimes we even resort to NBC to watch all the steroid-addled Yanks run amok.

The only explanation for our devotion that I have come up with so far is that, much like Colonel Sanders' crispy chicken, the Aussies put an addictive chemical in the Olympics that makes you crave for it nightly.

However things turn out, I'm sure I'll put on some clothes sometime soon, and get my readings done and maybe start that essay. In a little while. Fencing's on.

(\* Names have been changed to protect those involved, as well as our illegal cable line)

You too can write a Hyde Park. Keep it under 500 words and send it without delay to letters@mcgilldaily.com.



by John Paul Koning

## letters



### DAVE EGGERS' APARTMENT IS MESSY

Ian McKellar (letter, Sept. 25) is trying to sound smart, and it isn't working. A sixty-eight word run-on sentence and polysyllabic bombasticism aren't helping either.

I don't see any criticism of Dave Eggers in Ben Errett's Sept. 21 piece. Anyway, Dave is a real person who happened to get a lot of money for writing a book. And he certainly doesn't care whether or not you think he's a sellout. His apartment is just as messy as everyone else's. I know, because I've been in it.

D. J. Waletsky

U1 Political Science &amp; Philosophy

Letters are welcomed with open arms at letters@mcgilldaily.com

## APATHY RALLY by Channing Rodman



comics@mcgilldaily.com



# Violent Clashes with Police?



ZACHSKY

**T**wenty-thousand anarchists rioted in Prague this week. No, wait, a mere 5,000 British teachers sat in circles and played Yahtzee. Check that – 13,000 police officers took a shower. Or something.

The truth? Depends on who you ask, or, rather, what you read.

As “about 5,000 anarchists, Marxists, and student activists” (according to the New York Times), or, alternatively, “up to 15,000 people” (says The Guardian), or “20,000 protesters from all over the world” (Independent Media Centre) converged in the Czech capital and met 11,000 police (opinion virtually unanimous on this figure) during meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank (ditto), the world’s media scrambled to sensationalize the “minor confrontations” (The Guardian), which became “attacks by masked mobs of anti-capitalist demonstrators,” (National Post) where, in a case of sheer hyperbole, “about 5,000 anti-capitalist activists threw firebombs and vandalized small shops” (NY Times) and “5,000 protesters [were] lobbing firebombs and cobblestones at Czech police” (National Post).

With their latter statements, the venerable paper of record and the Post want us to believe that *every single* rallier in Prague – including “ecologists, old communists, several thousand unionists,” those involved in “a peaceful blockade of the State Opera,” and “two Japanese financiers caught up in the march” (The Guardian) – violently lashed out.

But do you buy it?

It must be pretty hard, after all, for all 5,000 “black-masked protesters” to collectively “smash the windows of a McDonald’s” (NY Times) “with balloons and globes, samba and trumpets” (The Observer).

But don’t let a silly technicality get in the way of a good news story.



Was Prague overtaken by “a mob of black-masked protesters,” or “a peaceful demonstration of several hundred people”?

What else happened in Prague? (or was it Bratislava, or Vienna?)

“Radical anti-globalization protesters tore up Prague’s ancient cobblestone streets,” and “set fire to some police,” according to The Globe and Mail, in “brewing anti-globalization protests” (Associated Press). “Prague is burning!” declared The Gazette. The 11,000 police officers “responded... with dogs, water cannons and smoke bombs” (The Globe) and “extreme brutality inside the jails,” where “people have been beaten and sexually harassed” (IMC) – but only because they had to “protect the delegates” to the meetings and because “protesters shouted, waving banners in the faces of police” (Reuters). Banner waving, God forbid...

As a result of all this alleged commotion, “61 police officers have been injured in clashes, as well as 65 demonstrators” (The Guardian) while “fighting left 51 policemen and 18 demonstrators injured” (The Daily Telegraph) and “some 55 police officers and a few dozen demonstrators were injured” (Reuters).

But in all their rambling and contradictory reports, the mainstream media exhibit some egregiously careless traits.

Most fail to distinguish between the

(extremely small minority of) “black-clad demonstrators” who “hurled Molotov cocktails” and oppose capitalism and globalization outright (NY Times), and the peaceful trade unions, environmentalists, “non-governmental organizations such as Oxfam and Jubilee 2000,” and just plain ordinary people – seniors, students, middle-age university professors – who “swayed to reggae music and spoke out against the effects of globalization on the poor” (The Globe).

“This violence is something we really did not expect at all, and we are very, very disappointed because we’re extremely committed to non-violent protest,” said Friederike Habermann, a representative of Inpeg, the group organizing most of the teach-ins, speeches, street theatre, puppet-making and other events that went unreported – because they’re not nearly as sensational as isolated pockets of violence.

But this bias towards reporting on the worst-behaved is the norm. When Noam Chomsky, called by some the most important intellectual alive, spoke to a jam-packed audience in Windsor, Ont., last June, ‘twas not a single word in any major newspaper. But when a lone demonstrator at concurrent rallies hurled a harmless

smoke bomb over a 13-foot-high fence, he made headlines across the country. Sadly, the thousands of innocent and peaceful marchers in Windsor were convicted with him in the court of public opinion – certainly an objectionable case of guilt by association. Yet it happens all the time.

In reality, most ralliers in Prague, Windsor, Seattle, and elsewhere would probably agree with British Chancellor Gordon Brown, a pro-globalization, anti-liberalization advocate from the UK’s governing Labour Party.

“We can neither return to the protectionism of the 1930s nor some free-market dogma,” Brown says. What Brown and most demonstrators want is fair trade, with guaranteed rights for workers, laws protecting the environment, and regulations safeguarding the health of citizens – not free trade, which, experience has shown, erodes environmental, labour, and human rights protections in the name of greasing the wheels of global capitalism.

Neither Brown nor the 99 per cent of demonstrators who rallied peacefully, according to Inpeg’s Habermann, condone the violence in Prague.

But unless you were there, you’d never know it.

## To Evil People Everywhere – Beware

BY SARI LONG

**T**his rant is written to you, O Prince (and Princess) of Darkness who stole my computer last week. You are low down and dirty and I hope your mother thinks you’re ugly.

What’s with that anyway? Stealing someone’s computer is like stealing their underwear or something. It’s way too personal. I hope you feel guilty when you turn on my gray Tecra and see the picture of my friends and I during reading week. Ha.

Not only that, I hope you realize that every sound programmed on that computer is the voice of a loved one. Shame on you! And I hope you feel a twinge of conscience when you see all those sappy songs on my WinAmp. You have no idea why I



have Billy Joel on there, do you? You probably think I just have crappy taste in music. Well, buddy, you’re wrong. It’s an inside joke, and you wouldn’t have thought it was funny anyway.

I hope that my lil’ computer crashes on you as much as it crashed on me. Only I know how to fix it. I know it’s little idiosyncracies just as much as it knows mine.

Watch out, you evil computer thief – if you’re typing a term paper on that baby, it’ll dump all your files just before print time and you’ll be screwed. What else can I say? That computer will act like a dog whose family has gone on vacation. It will pee on the floor and erase all your important documents and bite the stranger who comes over to feed it and be extra slow when you’re trying read your email.

You probably even had the guts to pawn my Tecra, but I hope you’ll still feel bad. You’ll feel the pain of me standing in line at Leacock, desperately writing my term papers in shifts. You’ll feel the sting of angry editors when that article was due yesterday but had to be postponed due to lack of a laptop. Ah, but you evil computer

thieves are a sneaky lot, this I discerned after you slid that computer bag right out from under my feet.

If there is anyone else is reading this, besides the wankers who took my computer, I hope you are keeping a good eye out for anyone with a very cute and cuddly Toshiba Tecra that’s acting up and crashing on the poor fool who was mean enough to steal it. But if you are one of those wicked ones who are planning and plotting to steal someone else’s laptop, just think of what a horrible and heartless thing you’re doing. You might as well just steal their underwear while they’re wearing them, put them on and dance around like the crazy nutcase you are.

Sari Long is a U1 arts student.



## Please let me rot my mind

**T**oday, I have decided to help my devoted readers understand that yours truly isn’t all about complaint and annoyance. I also hope to illustrate what life will be like once you graduate and enter the “real world.” To do this, I will tell you how excited I am.

I am enthused because of the beginning of the new TV season. Words cannot begin to explain my joy and bliss at the idea of brand new shows and the return of my favorites. This should tell you both that (1) Uncle Cam doesn’t get out very often, and (2) that once you start working nine to five you don’t have the energy to do all those cool things that TV characters are always doing after work. You just drag your ass home and vegetate on the couch (ah, the sweet, sweet irony).

Generally, I tend to watch what could be thought of as the higher-quality TV dramas and sitcoms. So during the first couple of weeks of the new season I try to watch everything that is on. When I say everything, I don’t mean like when you go to a buffet and you say, “Wow, I ate everything!” and you really mean you ate a lot. I mean the everything that means EVERYTHING. I tape shows. I flip between shows when on commercial. I even find myself wishing for two TV’s.

Now I know that it is anti-intellectual to say so, but I really, really, really love television. I would rather watch something horrendous than watch nothing at all. It is in these truly horrible moments on TV that you see some of the most amazing things.

Think about it: when you watch The Learning Channel, you aren’t really watching to learn anything. You are watching to see how far they can push the concept of “learning” and still have a license from the CRTC. But it is sitcoms that provide the most awe-inspiring dreck on TV. Last year, David E. Kelly (the E apparently stands for ego) had a show on called Snoops. It starred Gina Gershon (and her lips) and Paula Marshall (who is a great actor with a really bad choice of shows to be on, since they all seem to be cancelled). There may well have been worse shows on the air, at some point, but this one really came very near the top of my all time worst shows. The thing is, every week I tuned in. I don’t know why. It was like picking a scab, or a car wreck or the Spice Girls. I just couldn’t look away.

So I look forward to next week with baited breath and clicker in hand. Finally, the spectacle of our Olympians getting their butts whupped at virtually everything will be over (but, as CBC commentators perkily remind us, those 23rd place finishes are all personal bests!)

Finally, bad television will start. I just can’t wait to hear what Mary Hart will say about it all.

Uncle Cam appears on Thursdays



# Burma's University an Uphill Battle

**After leading pro-democracy rallies throughout the country, university students in Burma are under attack. Their government has found the ideal way to suppress their activities: continually close and re-open the country's universities.**

BY JEAN-MICHEL ARCHAMBAULT-CYR  
*Special to The McGill Daily*  
Rangoon, Burma

Burma's military junta loudly announced in early July that the country's universities would re-open after a four-year hiatus. The regime also pledged the construction of new campuses, in line with its policy or prioritizing higher education.

The catch?

They picked a convenient time - the European Union and the Association of South East Asian Nations were meeting nearby in Bangkok.

In reality, the new policy has done little to stabilize an education system in ruins.

## PERCEIVED THREAT

The state last completely closed down all the country's universities in 1996, when students took to the streets - yet again - to protest Burma's ruling military regime.

But that wasn't the first time.

Since 1988, the year the military junta began bloodily putting down student demonstrations, the South East Asian nation's universities have been open for a total of just 30 months. The student movement, with its long tradition as a catalyst of change - the father of Burmese independence, Aung San, was educated before World War II in the anti-colonial student movement - is perceived as a threat to the regime, student leaders feel.

So the military's generals constantly open and close educational establishments in a bid to destabilise students and prevent them from organising and demonstrating. As a result, the Burmese education system is in ruins.

Pho Kan Kaung was a second-year student at the Rangoon Institute of Technology when the government closed the institute's doors in 1996. Kaung read recently in the press that universities were re-opening. With just a few days notice, he had to prepare for and take a readmission exam, four years after lectures had suddenly stopped.

"Now, apart from the increased cost of registration, the main problem is getting to the new campus," Kaung said, adding that the government has forced

him to study chemistry because he got high marks at school in the subject. But he sees no possibility of finding a job in this field.

Kaung has been transferred from the Rangoon Institute to a new campus he describes as "built in the middle of a rice field." The site is a two-hour bus ride from Rangoon, Burma's capital. As well as the prohib-

itive cost of transport, most students find the exhausting four-hour daily round-trip on jam-packed buses too gruelling a prospect.

The solution?

"Often, we delegate a student in our group to go to attend lectures, and then everybody borrows the notes," Kaung said.

## MANIPULATE STUDENTS

Instead of aiming to advance education, student leaders say the new campuses have been built to meet the regime's objectives - to manipulate students.

Aung Swhe, a member of the executive committee of Burma's National League for Democracy, says the





# Students Fighting for Democracy

military built the new campuses to keep watch on students' activities, not to make post-secondary education more available. The campuses offer no student accommodation, he says, nor any areas to allow students to meet. As a result, Aung Swhe says, there are actually fewer students today than in 1996.

And with the amount of time spent on public transport, university students complain they have no more time to organize demonstrations. Even if they managed to do so, they fear the military could simply hole them up, under observation, in their lecture halls, or block a few rural roads to bar them from getting to lectures in the first place.

Strangely enough, the new university campuses are all situated near military bases.

## ALLEGIANCE MUST BE DECLARED

And if that weren't enough, before readmission to university, each student has to sign a declaration of loyalty to the junta, and the document must be countersigned by her parents. Students must agree not to get involved in any political activity, under threat of expulsion. Lecturers too sign a similar declaration.

Once inside the classroom, conditions are no better. Books are rare. Those available are completely obsolete. At one campus, a group of 400 medical students shared six manuals dating from the 1960s.

The military regime insists that all students currently at university graduate with a degree - to demonstrate "progress" to international organizations and obtain the loans it so desperately needs to stay in power. Lecturers are therefore answerable to authorities for the academic success of their students, meaning many only teach the answers to end-of-year exams.

The junta claims there are currently 60,000 students enrolled in university. But other estimates put the student population at half that number. With the constant closure and re-opening of universities since 1988, very few new students have been able to start university courses.

Everyone currently enrolled in university was there four years ago, at the last shut down. Which means anyone who received a secondary school diploma between 1996 and 2000 has to wait for upper-year seniors to graduate and spaces to open, possibly taking several years. Burma is home to an estimated 16 million people under age 17 - a frightfully long waiting list for higher education.

## ALTERNATIVE

In an attempt to alleviate the backlog of aspiring freshman and provide quality schooling, an alternative education network was created outside the reach of official censorship. For participating in the illegal system, lecturers have been sentenced to prison terms of up to 50 years.

Graham Bailey, a South African academic who took part in a recent forum in Burma on

education, compares the country's situation to the apartheid era of his own country.

"The regime uses education as a political tool," Bailey says. "The authorities do whatever they can to stop people from thinking."

According to Aung San Suu Kyi, Aung San's daughter and the leader of Burma's democracy movement, the re-opening of the universities is just a public-relations stunt and the junta has no intention of providing students with a quality education. More than 40 per cent of the national budget is spent on the military and less than 7 per cent goes to health and education, she points out, yet Burma is under no threat from any foreign aggressor.

The current crisis affecting the Burmese education system is a direct consequence of the corruption and incompetence of the generals who rule the country, Suu Kyi says. Only a concerted effort can rebuild what was, at independence in 1948, the most developed nation in South East Asia, but now figures among the world's 10 poorest countries.

Other countries have tried to help, but their policy of "constructive engagement" towards the military junta - giving Burma membership in ASEAN, for instance - is a failure. The United Nations, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have

all condemned the Burmese government for the slaughter, imprisonment, and torture of political dissidents and the forced relocation of thousands of members of ethnic minority communities.

Burma is also under serious threat of being banished from the ranks of members of the International Labour Organization for its practice of imposing forced labour on its citizens.

And recently, though the world condemned the government-imposed blockade against Suu Kyi as she attempted to travel across the country, the junta did not budge, forcing the Nobel Peace Prize laureate to abide the nation's rural roads for nine days.

Days before the stand-off with the military, Suu Kyi was adamant that the struggles for higher education and democracy are inextricably linked.

"An educated citizenry goes against the interests of this regime," Suu Kyi said. Her conclusion? "First, we need democracy in Burma. The rest will follow."

Jean-Michel Archambault-Cyr represented the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development at a recent forum on education in Rangoon, Burma.



## Burma Blues

Students in Burma are fighting for democracy, and around the world they're boycotted, canvassed, and rallied against Burma's brutal military dictatorship. Here's a brief timeline.

**1800s.** In a series of wars, Burma is progressively conquered by Great Britain, which annexes the country to British India in 1886.

**1940 - 1945.** During the Second World War, a group of young Burmese men led by student Aung San receives military training in Japan. They return to Burma to fight for independence from Britain, with Japanese assistance. When Japan reneges on promises to grant independence, Aung San establishes contact with the Allies and transfers the support of his 10,000-strong army.

**1947.** Following meetings with UK prime ministers Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee, Aung San secures Burmese independence. Elections in April 1947 make him the country's first democratic ruler but tragically, while a new constitution is being drawn up, Aung San, 32, is assassinated. Parliamentary democracy ensues for just 14 years.

**1962.** The military stages a coup, abolishing Burma's constitution and killing 100 students in the ensuing protests.

**1974.** When former United Nations secretary-general U Thant dies, students demand a public funeral. They march U Thant's body to the Students' Union at Rangoon University. The military surrounds the campus and attacks, killing many students and jailing about 4,000.

**1988.** Students lead pro-democracy rallies all over the country. On March 13, two students are shot. Three days later, 41 students are crowded into a truck by army soldiers, where they are left to suffocate. By August 8, millions of Burmese, including workers, monks, farmers, and civil servants are demonstrating. A brutal massacre of thousands follows. Students are beaten, bayoneted, shot, abducted, tortured, and imprisoned.

**1989.** Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Aung San and leader of the pro-democracy National League for Democracy (NLD), is placed under house arrest.

**1990.** In Burma's first general election, the NLD wins by a landslide, but the result is declared invalid by the military.

**1991.** Suu Kyi is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

**1990s.** Students at universities around the world pressure companies conducting business in Burma to withdraw. At Harvard, students deny Pepsi a \$1-million contract over the soft-drink maker's dealings in the country. At Stanford University, Taco Bell, a Pepsi subsidiary, is kept off campus. The campaigns largely succeed: Apple Computer, Best Western Hotels, and Motorola number among the hundreds of companies to cease their Burmese operations.



On this day in 1897, W.E. Gladstone was the three-year old toddler that Ted Gladstone had left behind when he went off to fight in the Boer War. Gladstone senior did not play a major role in the actual fighting, but was recognized with distinction by Queen Victoria after the battles. Her Majesty was particularly impressed with the pickling knowledge that Gladstone had acquired in South Africa. W.E. often credited his Dad's stories as inspiration for his lifelong commitment to radishes and the pickling process in general, as the senior Gladstone brought pickled products of every shape and size back from South Africa. Prior to his exploits, no one had thought to pickle beets. Dad's stories were always an inspiration to young William Ewart and he hoped to one day humiliate a Dutchman or two himself.



## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD by Zach Dubinsky

## ACROSS

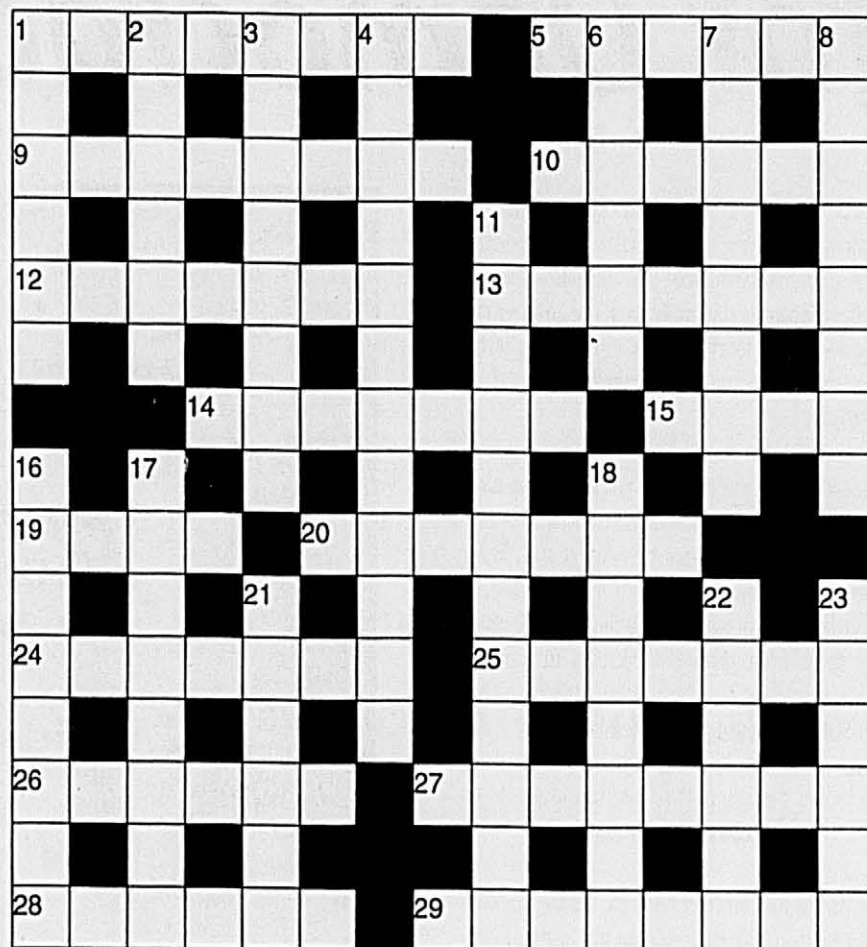
1. Writer swallows Al's morning vinegar. (8)
5. Stare fixedly at Zeppelin's initial substitute. (6)
9. Daunts (or blasts) round rooms. (8)
10. Jury's decision sounds an end. (6)
12. Mix-up mature girl's third mistake. (7)
13. Ordered citrine stimulator. (7)
14. Senate disturbed about a southerly wind. (7)
15. I hear neighbourhood song. (4)
19. Mona lambasted Chomsky. (4)
20. Fizzle looks like MI-5 blaze. (7)
24. Scottish clan dance funny: Grease? (7)
25. Rancher splits soda with dizzy captured soldier. (7)
26. Turn over decapitated expatriate before I finally pour draught. (6)
27. Adding wrong? Plug in 3.14. (6,2)
28. Fastening fork over monarch. (6)
29. Cradled and lugged SN. Awful! (8)

## DOWN

1. Fired up massage room. (6)
2. Goodbys change, staler. (6)
3. Edit gift-bearing NATO novel. (8)
4. Can't get into a broken jaw with a steamship! (12)
6. Stylin' Hasbro Co. computer? (6)
7. Endlessly dull eatery, first off, harbours mid-life perfidy. (8)
8. Acne medication new MIT craze. (3,5)
11. Speech containing last five gaffes renewed disloyalty. (13)
16. Smugness: handles fresh, cored berry. (8)
17. Get unhealthy new calf silk. (4,4)
18. Fishing 'cross circle with cob-  
bler's tool. (8)
21. Subordinate smallest particle. (6)
22. Large number leave circle before report turns up. (6)
23. Dove pealed madly. (6)

## MONDAY'S SOLUTION

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## WHERE It's @ sparknotes.com

BY BRIE O'KEEFE  
The McGill Daily

Let us begin today by transcending into the world of Joe Student. He is a simple man, trying his best to balance all the distractions of the social world, Montreal, his inner growth, the fabulous deals at Warshaw, and maintain a GPA sufficient enough to guarantee his return in the fall and maybe, just maybe, allow him to get one of those "job" things when he grows up. This is often a complex process, involving disproportionate

amounts of alcohol, cheap falafels and the respect of those around you for being able to do it on \$400 a month.

But school is after all about studying, and we are all interested in any options available to us to make our school experience cheaper, faster, and as painless as possible. Enter sparknotes.com. Remember Coles Notes? You may recall these as those books that the people in Remedial English bought to help them fully understand a Tale of Two Cities even though the class had spent a month on plot summary alone. Little did we know that when uni-

versity came around, they would be a valuable asset in our quest to find other people to do our work for us.

As you may have already guessed, Sparknotes work almost exactly the same as their paper colleagues, but with one big bonus. The people at Sparknotes have gone one step further than the traditional notes by moving beyond literature. Amidst their more than 200 literary works, Sparknotes includes Chemistry, Physics, Math, Astronomy, Kaplan Test Prep (that's MCATs and LSATs, etc, for those of you with lofty career ambitions), Economics, History, Health and Nutrition, Biology, Philosophy, Computer Science, Psychology and Geography. Although many of these new subjects are in the preliminary stages and currently do not cover more than first

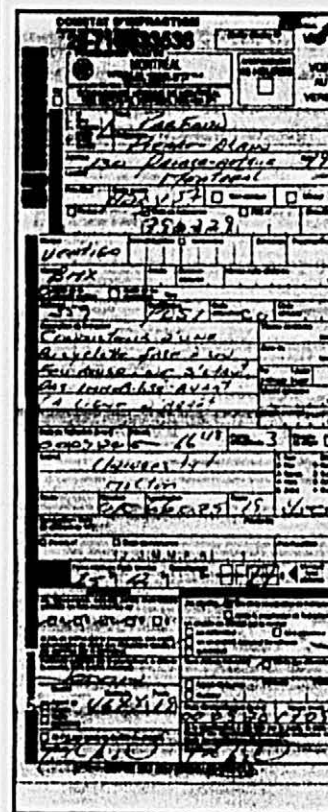
year curriculum, they appear to be growing. All notes are written by Harvard students and grad students, giving them a down-to-earth, coherent feel without the pomp and circumstance that can pervade into the notes written by professors.

As our resolve to keep up with our readings and study really hard falters, it is sites like sparknotes.com that tell us that this is okay. So rather than freak out and fail like that person who starts to cry in the library every year during exams, sparknotes allows us to freak out away from the library and then spend hours reading the condensed versions of all of the books we should have read during the semester. And we'll get away with it too.

Link to this site and other cool stuff from [www.mcgilldaily.com](http://www.mcgilldaily.com)

## Student Gets Hit by Car, Receives Ticket

Pierre-Alain Parfond, a photo editor at The Daily, was bicycling across University Street into the Milton Gates last week when he was hit by a car. He was thrown from his bike, but not hurt. When he got up, a nearby police officer handed him the following ticket for reckless behaviour. Go figure.



John Malkovich presents:  
**The Terrorist**  
"Charming & Hip, Fresh & New!"  
"MASTERPIECE" New York Times  
"FLAWLESS" San Francisco Chronicle  
DAVID CRONENBERG RETROSPECTIVE  
ERASI  
Jeremy Irons  
M. BUTTERFLY  
Become a member, Open your eyes!  
**12 films for \$42 = \$3.50 per film!**  
Cinéma du Parc 3575 ave. du parc, info: 281-1900

**Attention Crossword  
Puzzle Junkies!**  
The McGill Daily and Oxford University Press have a limited number of Canadian Oxford Paperback Dictionaries for you! Just complete the following quiz and bring it to the front desk in Shatner B-03 at 1pm today. First come, first served!

Match each word to its uniquely Canadian definition:

1) bunny hug	a) fur trim around the hood of a parka
2) sunburst	b) underpants
3) ketaine	c) a hamburger
4) gotch	d) crazy, foolish
5) nip	e) in poor taste, tacky
6) spinny	f) a hooded sweatshirt

Good Luck and Godspeed!



# Queer Cinema Widens Its Appeal

*In its thirteenth year, Image+Nation makes sure everyone comes out*

BY MICHAEL DASCAL  
Culture Reporter

England, Australia, and Japan.

## GAY MAINSTREAMING

The Montreal queer community is celebrating its unique culture at Image+Nation, the international gay and lesbian film festival. Running for the thirteenth year, the festival provides a venue for all-gay cinema - from short films to full-length pictures to documentaries. The films range in topic from growing up gay, to death as such and everything in between.

When the festival began it offered a weekend of gay film in response to the demands of the gay community to see itself portrayed on the big screen. It has since grown to a ten-day, full-fledged festival that monopolizes two of the Parisien's theatres for the entire duration. Last year, there was an estimated attendance of 15,000, which is expected to grow this year and into the future.

As the number of festival goers has increased, so has the variety of films presented. Katherine Setzer, programming director for the festival for the past four years, explains that this is mainly due to the increase in access to artists through new tools such as online calls for submissions. More artists from more countries are now entering their work making the festival truly international. This year the festival features films from Germany, Sweden,

England, Australia, and Japan. As more people come to see the films and more films are submitted, the amount of commercial of media dealing with gay issues increases, bringing mainstream awareness. Setzer thinks this increased coverage is definitely a step in the right direction. She feels that through this mainstreaming a huge evolution has occurred in the image of gay characters as they break away from stereotypes and become more three-dimensional. This indeed seems to be the case.

Since *Roseanne*, the first mainstream medium to have an in your face attitude towards homosexuality, and also the first television show to put a same-sex kiss on TV, many further boundaries have been broken. *Ellen* was the next stepping stone, but unfortunately after her show was reduced to one bad lesbian joke after another, even the open-minded people I knew were saying "OK, so you're a lesbian, get over it!"

*Will and Grace* is the queer sitcom nowadays. While, just like any other sitcom, their weekly situations are far from real, the show does offer the most realistic portrayal of gay men on TV in that their homosexuality is not the only defining characteristic of their lives.

It seems we're beginning to step even further into gay mainstreaming in many ways. First of all, famous actors are jumping at the chance to play gay roles or close-to-gay roles. Kevin Klein and Tom Selleck were two of the first to do this in *In & Out*. Christina Ricci played the sister of a gay man in *The Opposite of Sex*, and Brendon Fraser co-starred with Ian McKellan who played a gay, aged, horror-movie writer in

Mike Myers, Janeane Garofalo and more. With straight actors playing gay characters so nonchalantly, a strong message is being sent to the public.

## NO LONGER JUST COMIC RELIEF

As well, homosexual characters are no longer just comic relief; commercial dramas now involve queer issues. *Boys Don't*

*Urbania*, deals with similar issues through a first-person point of view. It premieres commercially next week at the Faubourg.

Some older films are also being shown at Image+Nation, like *Boys Don't Cry* and *Gia*, the story of the first supermodel, Gia Carangi (played by Angelina Jolie) who is another important name in queer history.

Nine documentaries are being presented this year at the festival, including *The Bradfords Tour America*, by U.B. Morgan and Jann Nunn. Morgan and Nunn, a gay man and lesbian woman, posed as a God-fearing Christian couple for this home video as they toured the United States and investigated the homophobic propaganda spread by those such as Reverend Jerry Falwell and Fred Phelps.

The Image+Nation festival this year is more interesting than ever. There are fewer skin flicks and more serious films scheduled, to make for an even better festival than in the past.

A full schedule of movie times and tickets are available at the Parisien at 480 Ste. Catherine W. or pick up at catalogue at Queer McGill (Sbatner 416). Ticket prices are \$6 for students for regular films, and \$5 for documentaries. Don't wait until right before the show to buy your tickets, as sellouts are often unavoidable.



Queer cinema: not just Judy Garland flicks any more.

the lesser-known *Gods and Monsters*. At the Image+Nation festival is *The Thin Pink Line* with a cast including Jennifer Aniston, David Schwimmer, Jason Priestley,

*Cry* starring Hilary Swank, for example, brought the reality of gay-bashing and homophobia to American screens. The opening film of Image+Nation this year,

# Image+Nation: Picks and Pans

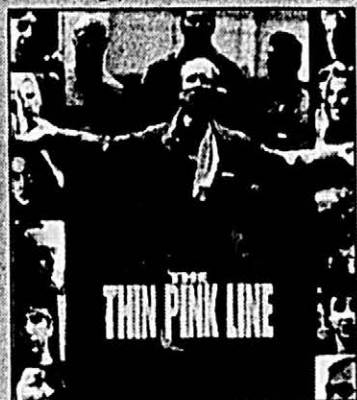
MICHAEL DASCAL  
Culture Reporter

## URBANIA

The opening film this year, *Urbania*, provided an amazing aura to start the festival. John Shear, of subtle fame from productions such as *Independence Day*, *Heat*, and the Broadway production of *Angels in America*, directed and helped write this story of a gay man, Charlie (Dan Futterman) who is trying to deal with the murder of his boyfriend Chris. As Charlie tries to reverse the clock by hunting the man who gay-bashed Chris to death, he eerily encounters classic urban legends turned into real life (not in the Jamie Blank kind of way) and reminisces of his euphoric time with Chris. The film has a wonderful mystical feel as you experience Charlie's hallucinations and fantasies. A success at the Sundance film festival, *Urbania* hits commercial theatres this week at the Faubourg.

## THE THIN PINK LINE

It has been proven time and time again that famous actors can't save a bad movie. Sometimes neither can good ones. Gay film is no exception to this rule, and as proof we have *The Thin Pink Line*. This "making of a making of a documentary" follows wannabe filmmaker Royce Cannon as he tries to film a documentary. His "original, never been done before" theme is the story of an innocent man on death row. He stumbles upon Chauncy Ledbetter, a gay murderer who is in fact guilty,



but Cannon in his childish ways realizes that he is neither gay nor guilty. The film begins

with a funny situation, but unfortunately the humour of it dies about fifteen minutes into the film and the movie is inhumanly dragged on for another ninety minutes. As they interview characters played by a cast including Jennifer Aniston, David Schwimmer, and Mike Myers some good one-liners pop up, but even their humour soon fades away. Furthermore it seems the only reason the Chauncy character is gay is to add more bad jokes and play on stereotypes in an almost offensive way. I heard a rumor this film will also be hitting commercial theatre soon. I hope not.

## SWEET 16 AND TRYING TO GET KISSED

In the spirit of independent film, Image+Nation every year presents series of shorts grouped by some theme. "Sweet 16" was one of these, and offered shorts from around the world telling stories of young gay individuals and the hardships they face. Perhaps the best was *Home For Christmas*, a Norwegian film by Frank Mosvold. It is a five-minute dream sequence of a girl coming out to her family during a Christmas gathering. Her family is utterly elated that their family

now has a lesbian as a member. The film closes with the words "Surprise someone this Christmas. Tell them you're a lesbian." Other cute shorts came from Sweden, Belgium and Spain, and even those that had no real point, aside from telling a story, were entertaining.

## QUEER AS FOLK (PARTS 1 & 2)

In 1998 British television made a huge leap beyond the rest of the world in mainstreaming gay culture. Created by Charles McDougall and Sarah Harding, this mini-series followed the lives of three gay men: two good friends just entering 30 and one high school boy. As the New York Times wrote, "It



burst onto British television in February 1998, an explosion of graphic language, male nudity and explicit sex guaranteed to offend as many people as it enthralled. It was called *Queer as Folk*, and it set out to venture where British Television had not gone before." Last year, Showcase, a major sponsor of Image+Nation, picked up the series. It currently airs Monday nights at 10. This year the festival will be showing the first part of the mini-series once again, as well as its sequel made last year and a documentary about the series itself. Both parts and the documentary will be presented Sunday October 1st. Part one is a five-hour presentation and costs \$13, and part two is a three-hour show (student price - \$6). Buy tickets for both and pay only \$18.

## Other films to watch out for:

*Three* (Thursday, Sept 28th) - a documentary about a four-year, three-way relationship. *Beat* (Friday, Sept 29th) - the story of John Burroughs' murder of his wife. *Off the Straight and Narrow* (Saturday, Sept 30th) - a documentary on the evolution of the representation of "gayhood" in mainstream culture.



# Punky Twins Are Double Fun

*Tegan and Sara show off potential at Casa del Popolo*

BY CAMILLE BARICHELLO  
The McGill Daily

Though plagued by equipment problems and a "scary" audience, Calgary-born singer-songwriter twins Tegan and Sara put on a powerful show September 23 at the Casa del Popolo.

Opening with "Wading Pool," the hidden track on their 1999 release *Under Feet Like Ours*, the girls battled defective monitors and broken strings with a raw, desperate sound and lots of sarcastic remarks. As this current tour is in support of their new album, *This Business of Art*, about half of the songs they played were unfamiliar, but the sound is the same: passionate vocals and loud, intricate guitars. I interviewed Sara Quin about the pair's past, their preferences, and where they think they're going from here.

**D:** You have been described as "like early Ani DiFranco, but better." What do you think of such comparisons?

**SQ:** Well, it makes people come to our shows, it gets the word out. So it's good for us in that sense. But, I mean, we're not really like her, other than we're girls with acoustic guitars... Lots of reviewers know her, so they tend to compare us to her... we've also been compared to the Indigo Girls. We're not like them at all, but there are two girls up on the stage with guitars, so that's



*No-nonsense strumming.*

the comparison people make. Like I said, we don't mind, so long as it gets people out to the show.

**D:** At the time that I read that, you were being called "Sara and Tegan." Suddenly, you reversed the order. What possessed you to do that?

**SQ:** We didn't really make the decision to call ourselves Sara and Tegan. I guess people liked the S-T thing, and

that's what we were being called. We had always thought of ourselves as Tegan and Sara because that's what our mom had always called us, in that order. So when we got the chance, we changed it back. It wasn't a big deal, you know, with whose name went first. It was just what we were used to.

**D:** When you were first starting out in Calgary, you were punk?

**SQ:** Yeah. Everyone thinks we started out at 17 with our little acoustic guitars, but we had actually started out at 14 with electric guitars and being loud and yelling. So that's something we can put into our performances.

**D:** You often perform with a bunch of other acts on the same bill. Who have you enjoyed sharing the stage with most?

**SQ:** Well, there are all the people from the Cultch in Vancouver [Vancouver East Cultural Centre], like Kinnie Starr and Che: Chapter 127 and Veda Hille. We played with Neil Young recently, and that was really cool.

**D:** This is a pretty small venue. In Vancouver you played to way bigger audiences. Do you have much of a following here in Montreal?

**SQ:** Not really. It's mostly word of mouth here. I mean, some people are here to see us, and some people are here to see the act before us [Riot Nrrd, who was decidedly odd]... But we just played to 400 seats in Toronto, and when we get to Vancouver we're playing to 550 or 600.

Tegan and Sara's punk roots showed every time Tegan let out a growling wail, but this was much more laid back than your typical punk show. Sara performed in her sock feet, as is her tendency. And despite the fact that Steve, the sketchy sound guy, made Tegan's life extremely tough with a flickering monitor, the girls eventually dispensed with monitors altogether and pulled their set together at the end with a track from the old album that had everyone mesmerized. Altogether, I think that the next time Tegan and Sara return to Montreal, they'll definitely be needing a larger venue to contain them.

## Chinmoy Fails Thrill-Seekers

*Guru's concert the most silly of a lifetime*

BY JASON MAGHANOV  
Culture Writer

Sri Chinmoy's concert was relaxing, but so is my Political Theory class. However, I wouldn't give the latter a negative review. Was the concert bad? Most definitely, but that doesn't mean it didn't have its moments of camp glory; moments so funny you'd swear they came from a Backstreet Boys video.

Okay, here's the deal: I find it inherently dull when an artist plays a number of diverse instruments, but does not manage to create musical melodies that are the least bit differential. Now, this may be my cynicism: we young people can sometimes create a wall when introduced to strange new things, but

in this case the mediocrity of my experience at Chinmoy's concert had more to do with his relative lack of skills than with my worldview.

The night began on a high when I managed to find a seat beside an old woman who wouldn't stop talking and spit on me as she did so. Anyway, the audience was large: there were some who were simply there to disrupt the show in anyway they could. After each Chinmoy number they would hoot, or yell and cheer. It was disgusting and I thought they were jerks.

The concert began with a chorus of women singing a beautiful melody. They were followed by Chinmoy playing a single note on a shell repeatedly, before he began playing a long wind instrument. His music

is bland, but the atmosphere—dark and quiet—combined with the comfortable chairs actually promoted a sense of peacefulness. Pretty soon, I found myself curled up in my seat, listening to the soothing sound from Chinmoy's wind instrument. Then things got loud as he switched to a strange, mandolin type instrument that produced music that sounded like the background noise of a techno song. At that point (maybe 20 minutes into the show) everything was going fine and was almost pleasant.

However, there then came an "uh-oh" moment. An "uh-oh" moment is a term New York Times film critic Janet Maslin uses when she describes a moment that is just so bad it makes you frown and clench your

teeth. In the concert's case it was a picture of a recently deceased woman that was plastered on the jumbo screen. Chinmoy apparently explained who the woman was, but the whole night he spoke in such hushed incomprehensible tones I had no idea what he was trying to communicate. Thus, his whole mourning-type deal seemed strange and awkward.

The second "uh-oh" moment was the introduction of all of the countries that are part of Chinmoy's "Peace Blossoms Organization," a group that recognizes countries that are looking for peace. Men in white costumes held up a nation's flag as a chorus of women sang the country's name. So, when Indonesia's flag came up (Indonesia? Peace Blossoms for a country

that has fucked East Timor for so many years?) the chorus sang "In-do-ne-siaaaaaaaa." I laughed at the spectacle, as did others, who then promptly got up to leave. Clearly moved by the Chinmoy experience, one person asked his female companion "Want to go to Biffneck?"

I know that this review sounds resoundingly bad but... okay, it's bad, but I just think it has more to do with the execution of the event than anything else. There is just something inherently strange about Sri Chinmoy, and the event only accentuated his strangeness. It was long, it was sketchy, it seemed like he was speaking in an incomprehensible language, and at times it was tiresome. Still, it did give me an opportunity to get some very restful sleep.

Are you one of those "artsy" kids? Clearly, you should write for Culture.

Swing by Shatner B-03 on Friday at 4:30.



# Dance or Merely Movement?

*Critics debate merit of modern dance performance*

BY JOSH BEITEL AND HOLLY GAUTHIER-FRANKEL  
*The McGill Daily*

The following is a dialogue between a skeptic and a dancer who both attended a solo performance by renowned modern dancer and Montrealer Margie Gillis at Centre Pierre-Péladeau on September 22. Gillis danced five of her own pieces, including two world premieres.

**SKEPTIC:** I thought the performance was beautiful. I really did. The main problem I had with it, though, was that it didn't seem very physically involved. The movement of Gillis' arms and shoulders and back was amazing, but there was hardly any footwork at all. Don't get me wrong, I wasn't expecting to see the Nutcracker, but I would've thought there would be some leaping and spinning.

**DANCER:** You have to understand that modern dance is not necessarily going to be as visually physical as a regular ballet performance or a tap routine. However, this show was brilliant in all respects. Margie's relationship with the music she chose, with the props, and with the minute aspects of her own body, astounded me. She paid so much attention to the most subtle areas of dance and the art of movement, I couldn't help but be enraptured. I was laughing out loud, holding my breath, gasping right along with her as she devoted



*Margie Gillis moves to the music.*

every single moment to moving. Even her fingers pulsed with more energy than I have ever tried to convey!

**SKEPTIC:** You mentioned the relationship between Gillis and her music. For the most part, I very much enjoyed the choice of music, which included pieces by George Gershwin and Leonard Cohen. However, with the exception of the fourth dance, set to the unbelievable vocal percussion of Sheila Chandra, there seemed to be no rhythmic rapport whatsoever between Gillis' movements and the music itself. For this reason and for the lack of athleticism, I fail to see how you can call what Gillis does 'dance'. It would seem to fit the term 'expressive movement' much more closely.

**DANCER:** Eeeew. Margie Gillis is one of the best dancers I've ever seen. Just because we can't see the rhythmic connection between music and movement doesn't mean that there isn't one. She knew exactly what she was doing as the music played (even though some of the music was just sounds of bugs and animals in nature), and there isn't a doubt in my mind that it was, in fact, dancing. There were many definite modern technical elements throughout her pieces, and there was also a high level of emotional involvement, which also constitutes a large part of what dance is. I think we need to expand our notions of what "dancing" really means, so that we can include basic, daily

movements into our conceptions of performance, which is what Margie does beautifully.

**SKEPTIC:** Well, if we're enlarging what 'dance' really means, why don't I just call hockey a form of dance? It can be very graceful, and takes years of practice. Yes, I think hockey is indeed dance.

**DANCER:** Listen buddy, there is no way you are going to convince me that large men pummeling each other over a small piece of rubber is graceful, or meaningful in an artistic way. Sports are sports, dance is dance. Dance allows us to tell stories about moments, feelings, and even concepts of thought. It is completely different from hockey. I would say it is almost (but not quite) comparable to golf, if we want to make lovely sports analogies, thank you very much.

**SKEPTIC:** So golf is about feelings? I know I certainly feel emotional watching Tiger Woods walking down the fairway. And the philosophy involved, my God! It boggles the mind.

**DANCER:** First of all, I'd like to tell you how sorry I am for you if the only emotions you feel are for good ol' Tiger. You're missing the point. I liked the show very much, and I was impressed by what Margie Gillis did, physically and emotionally.

## Foufounes Offers House-Free Fun

*David Kristian, Oval, and Mitchell Akiyama offer diverse digital ditties*

BY DAN ZACKS  
*The McGill Daily*

Though I've only been enjoying Montreal's nightlife for a little over a month, one thing has already become quite clear to me: the majority of Montreal clubbers march to the beat of their own drummer—a drummer who pounds out nothing but house.

Now, I enjoy solid, deep house as much as any music lover, but when I hear it in the quantities Montreal clubbers seem to demand it gets a little monotonous. Fortunately, the party at Foufounes Electriques on September 20 demonstrated that even in house-crazed Montreal, refreshing, intelligent alternatives do exist.

The concert, an Alien8 production, showcased the recent work of IDM (intelligent dance music), minimalist techno artists Mitchell Akiyama and David Kristian, and the digital noise of Germany's Oval. All three artists are lauded as being amongst the very best in their genres, and I very much doubt that any of the 150 or so people who shelled out the ten-dollar cover for the



*David Kristian poses with tools of his trade.*

concert would disagree.

The evening commenced with a jaw-dropping forty-five minute set by Montreal's own Mitchell Akiyama. Akiyama's rhythms were rich and textured to extent that at moments they seemed utterly organic. This is a significant accomplishment for an artist whose genre is often criticised for being harsh and impersonal. The rhythms were well-supported by subtly integrated melodies as minimal as they were beautiful, and though the majority of the audience chose merely to stand and watch the surprisingly good lighting and Akiyama's blurred hands, a few brave (and extremely talented) individuals grooved on the dance floor.

If Mitchell Akiyama's set was cerebral, David Kristian was all about emphasizing the 'dance' in IDM. The room literally shook with his dark, cinematic beats, and the dance floor filled quickly. His set effortlessly shifted from whacked-out drum and bass to the minimalist techno characteristic of his most recent releases. Unfortunately, some of Kristian's melodies were overly sentimental and at times detracted significantly from the flow of his set.

Germany's Oval, last to take the stage, proceeded to engender both intense awe and intense headaches from the audience. Those who appreciate the technical virtuosity and creativity of Oval's computer techno—the use of digital skips, electronic bleeps, glitches, pulses and digital burn to create an intensely texturised albeit challenging sound—were visibly enraptured. However, those with ears that were not accustomed to this unusual and alarming sound were a very great deal less receptive. Some complained, some struggled to appreciate, some covered their ears and ran. Audience reaction notwithstanding, I firmly believe that techno like Oval's has no place in a traditional club environment. Much of its attraction resides in its subtlety and is thus best suited to a concert hall with proper acoustics and comfortable seating.

These minor complaints aside, Alien8 recordings put on an excellent evening that had people dancing and really enjoying themselves—and, as far as I could tell, there was no house.

*Mitchell Akiyama will appear at Cabaret on October 4.*



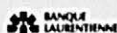


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# Music Man Returns

*At Molson Centre, Harper thrills with vibrant sound*

BY MARK YOUNG  
*The McGill Daily*

Take a little bit of pop, throw in some rock, add some reggae, and don't forget lots of funk, soul, folk, jazz, blues, and an incredible dose of musical talent. Altogether, you get the musical melange served up by Ben Harper and his Innocent Criminals when they performed for a near sell-out crowd at the Molson Centre on September 22.

Harper, who recently released his fourth studio album *Burn to Shine* under the Virgin Record label, opened with his trademark Weissenborn guitar on his lap. He played slide guitar and belted out riffs not unlike those trademarked by guitar greats such as Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Eddie Van Halen. Harper's hard rock attitude on "Burn One Down" and "Will to Live" (the title track off his third album released in 1997) got the audience headbanging like they were listening to Pearl Jam. Then he mixed it up with "I Am Numb" and "Least You Can Do," moving the crowd in a groove similar to that of Phish or Bob Marley, continuing to dazzle with his guitar riffs and powerful, yet soulful voice.

Harper's talent and versatility, (not to



solely pop. Rather, it is his multi-dimensional approach to his incredible music. His fans should hope that he sticks to his Weissenborn instead of attempting to foray further into the lucrative but rather soulless realm of more radio-friendly songs.

Having immersed the crowd in his music throughout his initial set, Harper took his performance to a new level with his two sets of encores. He made the crowd cheer for nearly ten minutes, but it was well worth the wait.

After keeping to mostly harder and funkier sounds earlier, Harper, alone with his acoustic guitar, serenaded the audience with three lyrical lullabies that created an intimate atmosphere. Apparently having appreciated the crowd's attentiveness to encore number one, in his second encore Harper played his signature tribute to Marvin Gaye: the reggae "Sexual Healing," and ended the night with his own "Faded," throwing some of Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" in for kicks.

Those tired of generic music from sound-alike bands should definitely investigate the vibrant and varied music of Ben Harper.

John Ortved  
is

**THE ART DUMMY**

## Sweet Reunification

**Me** - Hey man, what's up?  
**You** - Hey! How you doin'?(just like Joey on Friends)  
**Me** - Good. How you doin'? (same lame joke in response so as not to offend)  
**You** - Haha.  
**Me** - Haha.  
**You** - So man, how was your summer?  
**Me** - Great. I saw a cat on a dog's back and on the cat's back there was a mouse. Yours?

**You** - (a little unsettled, but relying on your trusty one-liners) Good. Really good. So classes are treating you well?  
**Me** - Not really, I've had to have sex with several professors to help my abysmal grades.

**You** - Haha.  
**Me** - It's not funny.  
**You** - (needing to bring this conversation back home to the Land of the Bland) Are you taking anything really interesting?

**Me** - No. I take only courses that I hate and in subjects of no interest to me. I find it more challenging that way.

**You** - Cool (trying to think of a way to escape physically). You still doing your column?

**Me** - (jumping to the conclusion you are trying to steal my one and only love away from me). I'm going to light you on fire then piss on your ashes.

**You** - Haha.  
**Me** - It's not funny.  
**You** - (desperately looking around, praying you'll see someone you know who can extract you from this horribly uncomfortable situation). How is everybody? Have you seen a lot of people from Rez?

**Me** - No, I'm blind. I haven't seen anyone since birth. Why must you mock my visual impairment?

**You** - You're not blind.  
**Me** - True. But if I was you'd feel quite the fool now wouldn't you?

**You** - So where are you living? How's your place?

**Me** - Yeah, your mom is a big slut.

It's almost October. I've seen pretty much all my acquaintances from last year and the banality of our small-talk has reached biblical levels (you know, because the Bible is so boring). By now, I've had the same conversation enough times to want to drown most everyone I encountered last year. So have you. This is how I wish these conversations could go. So do you.

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THE MCGILL DAILY



# Montreal Hardly a Cycling Paradise

*But groups like Right to Move aim to bring wheels to the masses*

BY BEN ERRETT  
The McGill Daily

Last year, Bicycling Magazine named Montreal the best city for cyclists in North America. The magazine cited the over 300 kilometres of bike paths and the Tour D'Ile that takes place each summer. However, the volunteers at Concordia's Right to Move cycling collective aren't quite convinced of the idea that this city is ideal for people on two wheels.

"Montreal must be one of the most dangerous cities [to bike in]," said Jesse Bristol, a Concordia student who was picking up a cycle at Right To Move's space

behind the Hall Building.

"The cars are a real pain in the ass. But it's still the best and cheapest way to get around."

Right to Move exists to help people do just that. Started under the auspices of Concordia's Quebec Public Interest Research Group, the group operates a small workshop where volunteers repair old bikes and teach anyone who's interested how to maintain their bicycle. The volunteers are devoted to the bicycle as a full-service vehicle, to be used all year round. Some may find the thought of cycling in the snow impossible, but the Right To Movers insist that it's more than feasible.

"Winter's not even the worst part of the

year," said Grant Burke, another Right to Move volunteer.

"The cars slow down a bit and the idiots don't drive quite as much like idiots. Everyone's super conscious during winter. I didn't really hear about anyone getting hit in the winter. It was once winter ended that everyone started getting whacked."

Getting whacked can cover a whole host of bike accidents, but more often than not they involve cars. Of particular repute is the door prize, which is the term used to describe the collision that results from a motorist opening their door right into a cyclist's path.

"It happened to me on Sherbrooke," says Right to Move coordinator Michael Thibault.

"I'm pedaling along, and I'm sure he wasn't even looking out the door, much less in the rear view. It opened directly in front of me and caught me in the shoulder and right hand as I tried to steer away from it. It threw me against the car, and I ended up lying in the lane. And they didn't charge the guy."

Thibault says that the main source of frustration for Montreal cyclists is the attitude of drivers that think they own the road.

"There's certainly a lack of awareness of the fact that the road really is a shared space," Thibault said. He notes that though bike paths may seem like a good thing for cyclists, the current system is problematic.

"If we had no bike paths, everyone would know that cyclists belonged on the roads. If we had a complete system [of paths], it would be great. With the partial network we have now, it's really doubly insulting. There's no way to get across the downtown core on paths, for example," says cyclist Alex Livingston.

If you're in the market for a bike, Right to Move may be able to help. The organization is always looking for frames and salvageable parts on old bikes that they can use to construct functional cycles. With

a base price of twenty dollars, they may be the most affordable way to get a new set of wheels. Even if you find an old bike that needs work, they can help you get it in working order.

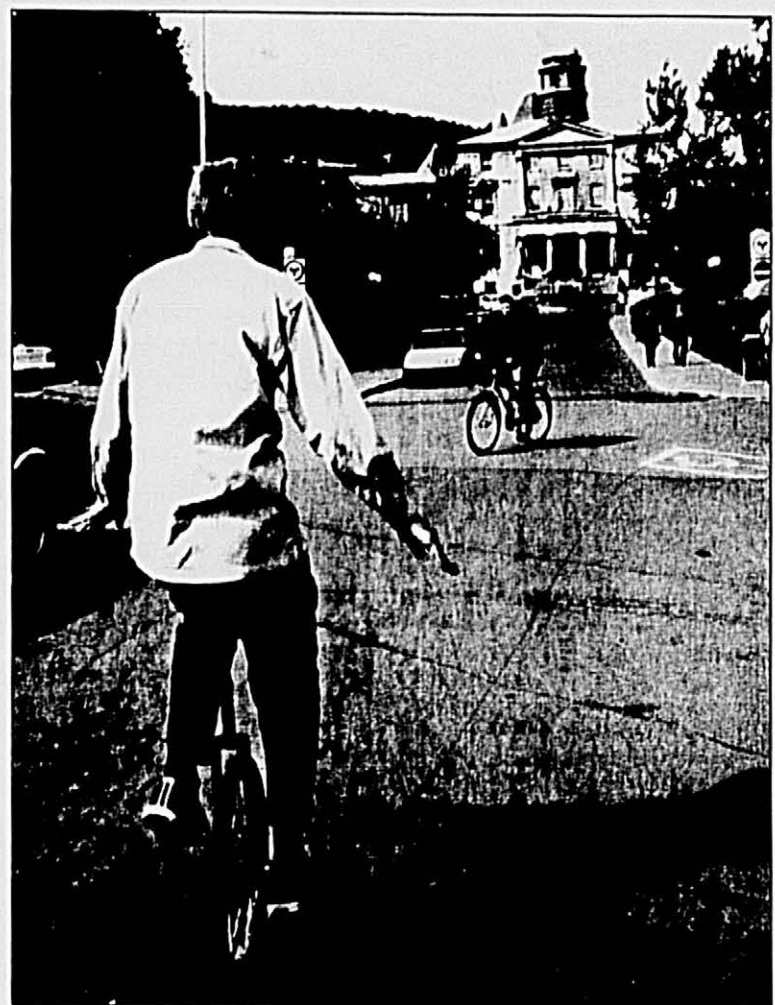
"Right now is a great time to get an old bike from the Salvation Army," Thibault said. "They're all half-price and usually in decent shape."

Thibault encourages those who shy away from the mechanics of the bicycle to get their hands dirty.

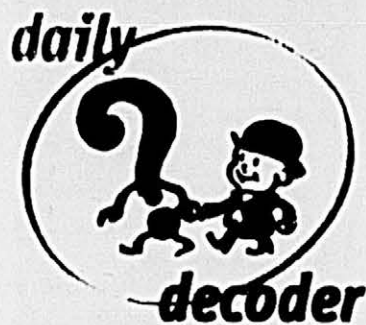
"One of our purposes is to help people learn how to fix their bicycles," he said.

"When it comes right down to it, maintaining your bicycle is just tightening or loosening a screw. You just have to know which screw, how much and when to do it."

"The best thing about bikes is the sheer simplicity," adds Livingston. "If you have two wheels and gears, you're good to go."



Cycles of all kinds on the streets of Montreal



BY IAN MCKELLAR

**I'm a McGill student. I want to join the Faculty Club. Can I join the Faculty Club?**

The McGill Faculty Club, located at 3450 McTavish Street, features a lounge, a reading room, a writing room, and a dining room, as well as snack and bar facilities. Since the establishment is famed throughout campus for its "convivial atmosphere," it is only natural that students would be

champing at the bit for the opportunity to enjoy aperitifs and savouries with their favourite professors emeritus. According to a Faculty Club employee who refused to release his name for fear of reprisal, the club would reject the membership application of a student because, well, because he or she is a student. "The club is for professors, business professionals, and alumni," quoth he, "we cannot have students joining."

Why is that? "Because," he replies sincerely, "where could the professors go to escape you students?" The answer: nowhere. The result: chaos. So there you have it. It is worth noting, however, that you may join the club the moment that you have graduated from McGill. Patience, dear readers, patience.

**If I die, will McGill's flag fly at half-mast for me?**

Yes. According to the Office of the

Secretariat, the University flag, which is flown from the mast of the Arts Building from morning to sundown, Monday to Friday inclusive, is lowered to half-mast to mark the death of the following individuals: "any serving member of the University staff, whether academic or non-academic; any student currently registered at the University; current members of the Board of Governors (including Emeritus governors); emeritus professors; and honorary graduates with close connections to McGill." This indicates quite clearly, then, that McGill would recognize your passing in vexillological form. Do not, however, be trying any wacky stunts, because the ultimate decision to lower the flag rests with Victoria Lees, Secretary-General, who doesn't have the time for such silliness.

**Something at McGill you've always wondered about? Send it to [decoder@mcgilldaily.com](mailto:decoder@mcgilldaily.com)**

## MIND & BODY?

Mind & Body is a bit of an experiment. You may have noticed some different things showing back here at the end of the paper. We have had a Sports section on a few occasions. We have had a Life section a couple of times. After some discussions about what we wanted these pages to be, we decided that we could meet needs that are not being met elsewhere, by changing our vision for the section. Our deadlines and printing days mean that the week-ends sports scores are already stale by the first time we could report them, Thursday morning. We also thought that The Daily would better reflect the tone of the rest of our paper with something different than a summary of the latest games. So, in earnest, we launch what we hope will become a regular part of our issues. We are combining stories that would normally go under the rubric of Life, like how to deal with the roommates that you hate or the best way to grill swordfish, with stories that deal with the aspects of an active lifestyle. This will include stories about topics as varied as everything you need to know about biking to a profile of the MVP of the girl's lacrosse team. We hope you will understand the twinning, and even like it.

## daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9:00-14:00. Deadline is 14:00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID) \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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## TEAM PROFILE: MARTLET SOCCER

BY FRANCO D'ORAZIO  
The McGill Daily

Life is simple for the Martlets' Marc Mounicot, whose team is brimming with so much talent that very little could phase the often-stoic third-year coach:

Your leading scorer decides to take a year off? Replace her with a 24-year-old veteran of the Pacific Soccer League.

Your weakness last season was goaltending? Recruit two capable netminders to stymie your opponents.

Mounicot's only concern is to avoid having anyone discover that most dead people could coach a team with as much ability as his.

The Martlets, 5-1-1 (4-0, QSSF), are presently ranked first in the nation and are a heavy favourite to win the Quebec conference for the second consecutive year. They owe their current success to the fact that theirs is a team with few weaknesses and many strengths.

One such strength is the exciting play of Amber Allen, a 24-year-old striker from Chilliwack, B.C., who has replaced the departed Eva Melamed as the team's main scoring threat.

Last season Melamed set a team single-season scoring record with 27 goals in 14 games. But she decided to spend a year in Israel instead of attending university.

Allen, however, dribbles with such deftness and kicks with such power, she has embarked on a campaign of her own to break Melamed's record. Already Allen has scored ten goals in the Martlet's nine over-all contests this year.

"She is a great addition to the team," says Mounicot of his forward who honed her skills with the Vancouver Angels of the WPSL, a semi-pro league.

"She has speed and can kick the ball hard with either foot," he added. "But she has to adjust to playing on turf, which she didn't do very much of out West."

Complimenting her on the attack are junior Rachel Boomgaart and sophomore Alanna Maloney. Boomgaart is also a proven scorer with four goals this season, three of them game-winners, while Maloney, who has made a career out of feeding the ball to more prolific scorers, was the nation's rookie of the year last season.

Co-captain Sophie Lobrom, a junior from Beaconsfield, Quebec, anchors a mid-

field which includes Carly Dean and rookies Megan O'Reilly and Maite Creixell. Dean, a sophomore, is still recovering from a knee injury, while O'Reilly and Creixell have cracked the starting line-up on account of their technique and sound play on the field.

Mounicot, however, reserves his greatest praise for his four defenders who have played the lionshare of the games thus far this season:

"They play with a lot of confidence and they make few mistakes."

Julia Scrase, a junior who was last year's league MVP and named a CIAU All-Canadian, has one of the quickest pair of feet on the team and is often seen pinching in on the attack, while co-captain Christie Finney, Ashlee Gentry and Victoria Lowerson, each sophomores, serve as the last line of defense.

Goaltending was the Martlets' greatest concern last season. But Mounicot may have solved that problem with his two recruits in Sacha Liben of Beaconsfield and Krista Bullock of Dryden, Ontario.

Each netminder has size (Liben is six-foot-one and Bullock, 5-9), and strength, and they also contribute to the team in their own way with Liben's hand-eye coordi-

nation and Bullock's agility. But, as Mounicot is quick to point out, they are still rookies.

"Each need to learn more and work harder," says Mounicot.

As talented as they are, the Martlets have also benefitted from having a coach whose ability to teach soccer is on par with their ability to play it.

Mounicot, who possesses a master's degree in education, was somewhat of a player himself, having played three seasons with the Redmen (1995-97) in which he was named league MVP and a CIAU All-Canadian twice (1996 and 1997). He also played for Bourdeaux and Saint-Jean de Luz, Division II teams in his native France, where he gained a reputation for his offensive prowess.

And the Martlets unmistakably personify their coach in that they are often on the attack in their opponents' half of the field, playing with much flair and artistry. But it is the disciplined conduct conducive to a zonal system where the team plays as a whole unit, which Mounicot has attempted to instill in his charges and which carries the Martlets through their games.

"I teach them how to play soccer — my version of soccer," explains Mounicot. "It's not an easy system to learn and the players have to adjust to my style. That takes a lot of hard work and concentration."

"Talent is important," Mounicot adds, "but it is hard work which will make the difference."

That was evident last season when the Martlets fielded a team consisting of only first- and second-year players. Nevertheless, Mounicot was able to coax his squad to a 15-6-1 overall record, including nine wins by shutout, and were ranked in the CIAU's Top 10 every week of the season, never falling below third place.

Only an injury to Melamed late in the season deterred McGill from winning its first national championship. The Martlets controlled the ball in all three of their games at the Nationals, but they were unable to score many goals to capture that elusive title.

With another season under Mounicot's system and tutelage, and barring any serious injury, the Martlets could conceivably win their first national title this year in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where the Nationals will be played in early November.

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